Submission ID: SB10A2324

Whitestone 1

1. I would like to ask the Planning Inspectors to visit several locations around Whitestone 1, particularly the area around [redacted] Firsby, the surrounding bridleways and the countryside around Conisbrough Parks, Ravenfield and Micklebring.

2. [redacted] bought their home in 2022 because they wanted somewhere peaceful to bring up their family, keep their horses and enjoy the countryside. [redacted], I have watched the worry and uncertainty this development has caused them. I find it upsetting that somewhere they chose for its peace and rural surroundings could change so much. I would really like the Inspectors to see the area for themselves and understand why we are so concerned.

3. I would particularly like the Inspectors to visit the following locations:

Location

Why I would like the Inspectors to visit

- [redacted] and surrounding area, Firsby

To see how close the proposed development would be to [redacted], and to appreciate the peace and countryside they chose to live in.

- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway 13

To see the bridleway near [redacted] and understand the importance of being able to ride safely into the countryside.

- Conisbrough Parks Bridleways 2 and 4

To see the existing bridleway network and the locations where construction traffic may cross or interact with routes used by horse riders. I am particularly concerned about the proposed controlled crossings and whether they will really be safe for horses.

- Ravenfield Bridleway No. 4

To appreciate the wider bridleway network and the potential effects of construction activity on people riding through this peaceful countryside.

-Ravenfield Footpath 10 — the Hildrecks

To walk along the higher ground where Conisbrough Castle can be seen and appreciate the views across the historic landscape. I am disappointed that the Applicant's chosen viewpoint appears to be towards the end of the route rather than where these views can be experienced.

- The Grazing Harts pub, Micklebring

To see the extensive views over the surrounding countryside from this location. I would also ask the Inspectors to consider whether changing this landscape could affect the attractiveness of the pub to visitors, particularly those who come to enjoy its rural setting and views.

- Firsby Lane and the proposed Whitestone 1 construction access routes

To see the character of the roads and understand the potential impact of heavy construction vehicles on residents, horse riders, walkers and other road users.

4. One of my biggest worries is the safety of my daughter and other horse riders. I have seen her riding in this area for many years, and I know how much it means to her to be able to ride straight from home without having to use busy roads. I am very concerned about the proposal to bring heavy construction vehicles into Conisbrough Parks, particularly where they would cross or share areas with existing bridleways. Horses are flight animals. They can be frightened by something as ordinary as an unexpected noise or sudden movement, never mind large construction vehicles and machinery. If a horse panics, the consequences could be devastating. I cannot understand how introducing construction traffic into these peaceful riding routes can be considered acceptable without properly demonstrating that riders will remain safe. I would hate for my daughter, or anyone else, to be seriously injured because the risks were underestimated.

5. I am also disappointed by some of the photographs used for the Applicant's landscape viewpoints around Conisbrough Parks. We have been looking at them as a family, and what concerns me is that Conisbrough Castle is missing from a number of the views, even though it can be seen from nearby positions. Sometimes moving just a short distance to one side can make a real difference. I would particularly ask the Inspectors to walk Ravenfield Footpath 10 across the area locally known as the Hildrecks, where there are views towards the Castle. I feel that walking through this countryside gives a much better understanding of its history and character than looking at individual photographs.

6. I would also like the Inspectors to visit the Grazing Harts pub at Micklebring. It is a location where people can enjoy views over the surrounding countryside, and I believe those views are part of what makes a country pub attractive. I worry about what could happen to businesses like this if the landscape around them is changed by such a large solar development. I am not suggesting I know what the financial impact would be, but I do think the Inspectors should see the views for themselves and consider whether the development could affect the setting and enjoyment of places like this.

7. I am also concerned about the construction traffic proposed for Whitestone 1. These are rural roads and bridleways used by local people, including families, walkers, cyclists and horse riders. I would ask the Inspectors to see the proposed access routes and crossing points, rather than relying only on plans and promises about how traffic will be managed.

8. I appreciate that the Inspectors cannot visit every location requested, but I particularly hope they will visit [redacted] the bridleways around Firsby, including Ravenfield Bridleway No. 4 and Conisbrough Parks Bridleways 2 and 4, Ravenfield Footpath 10 at the Hildrecks and the Grazing Harts pub at Micklebring. I believe seeing these places would help them understand what is at stake for local families and the wider community.

Thank you for considering my request.

Eric Walters

Interested Party

Whitestone Solar Farm — EN0110020